



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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Nov 21, 2007

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Steven Gene Marsh

BAY CITY MAN CHARGED WITH SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR

A federal Grand Jury has charged Steven Gene Marsh, 52, of Bay City, in an Indictment for manufacturing child pornography, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

Steven Gene Marsh, 52, of Bay City, Michigan was arraigned in United States District Court in Bay City today. Bond was denied, and he was ordered detained by Magistrate Judge Charles Binder.

According to the indictment, on about September 27, 2007, Marsh persuaded and coerced a minor boy to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct. The charges carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 35 years to life, based on the severity of the charge, and the defendant's criminal history, which includes two prior convictions for sexual assault and possession of child sexually abusive material.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Protecting children from predatory child sexual offenders is a top prosecution priority of my office. Today's charges are extremely serious and the penalties involved appropriately high."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI and the Bay City Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nancy Abraham.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.